ZCL DRIVES THE AMIGA MARKET

The much-touted Amiga 1200 CD drive has finally arrived...but not from Commodore. Distributor ZCL has unveiled a host of Amiga peripherals with the CD drive at the head of the pack. The new cream coloured add-on was released on July 1 and costs £199.99. It will play all discs for CD32, CDTV and even PhotoCD. Obviously it can run audio CDs too.

ZCL has also released an expansion device for the CD32 which basically turns it into a 1200. The black SX-1 allows the user to plug a keyboard and floppy drive into the CD32. It too will cost £199.99.

Don Carter, ZCL's chairman, has high hopes. "The (add-on) Commodore promised hasn't arrived and this is the most eagerly awaited Amiga peripheral in years. It's well known kids spend three times as much on upgrades as they did on the original product," he said.

Completing ZCL's peripheral blitz are two new types of storage card. The Zappo SmartStor delivers 20Mb or 30Mb while the SmartStor Plus delivers 130Mb, 170Mb, 250Mb or 340Mb of hard disc space. They are all out now.

• ZCL has also released the Amiga 1200 Frontier/Innovations pack. This new bundle basically updates Commodore's own Computer Combat pack with two new games at no extra cost. The new titles are *Frontier: Elite 2* and *Batman Returns*. They join the original seven — *Total Carnage*, *Zool 2*, *Brian The Lion*, *Day By Day*, *Personal Paint*, *Wordworth* and *Wordworth Print Manager*. The pack retails for £349.99.

Don't over-react Brian, it's only *Total Carnage*.

GAMES CHART TOP TEN

HMV LEVEL

1. (—) Kick Off 3 (Anco)
2. (—) Sensible Soccer Int (Renegade)
3. (—) World Cup Year '94 (Empire)
4. (1) Arcade Pool (Team 17)
5. (2) Beneath a Steel Sky (Virgin)
6. (3) Skidmarks (Acid Software)
7. (4) Man Utd Premier Champions (Krisalis)
8. (8) Frontier — Elite 2 (Gametek)
9. (—) Elfmania (Renegade)
10. (—) Body Blows (Team 17)

HMV LEVEL

STRIP TEASERS

...Zeppelin has become another UK company to be swallowed up by a larger American publisher. Merit Software, which publishes games such as *Tom Landry's Strategy Football* and *Harvester* on PC and CD-ROM, has shelled out $2.2 million for the Tyneside-based developer. Both sides pronounced themselves pleased as punch with the deal. Merit says it had no development resource before the acquisition while Zeppelin claims it had no US distribution.

...The rumoured games division of movie studio 20th Century Fox has become a reality. The new arm will launch its first game in November. It will be a version of the Macauley Culkin film *Pagemaster* which has yet to be released here. The game will be developed by UK outfit Probe. It's not clear yet whether Pagemaster will appear on the Amiga formats.

...The UK high street is changing shape as the major retailers take stock of the downturn in games. Currys has closed down 80 town centre stores with plans to axe 20 more by the end of the year. However Dixons, which owns Currys, will replace them with 40 out of town superstores by 1995. Boots has reported that games sales were down a third in the quarter to March 31.

...Gallup has revamped its UK games chart to take account of 75 percent of all software retailers. The new mechanism includes Dixons, Comet, Future Zone, Currys, PC World and Argos., adding 1,250 stores to the existing 2,000 strong base.

...Microvalue Flair has put its balls where its games are by signing up a deal with Mitre. The forthcoming Microvalue title *Soccer Superstars* will now feature the logo for Mitre which is best known for manufacturing football boots and footballs themselves. Mitre's logo will also feature on forthcoming releases. The sports company is also an official World Cup sponsor which won't do Microvalue any harm either.

THRILLS KIXX

Crusade. This devilishly thorny film licence is spread across apparently huge four levels and should keep you occupied for weeks. The complete list of utter bargainicity is as follows: *3D Pool*, *Action Fighter*, *Bionic Commando*, *Blasteroids*, *Carrier Command*, *E-Motion*, *Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade*, *International Soccer Challenge*, *MicroProse Soccer*, *Out Run Rick Dangerous*, *Rick Dangerous 2*, *Streetfighter*, *Stunt Car Racer*, *World Class Leaderboard*

Command — the result is inedible

SILICON DREAMLAND FOR US GOLD

US Gold has set up new development division called Silicon Dreams after the Brummy publisher "got divorced" from three of its most famous developers.

LucasArts, SSI and Novalogic all announced that they would leave the US Gold stable in June. US Gold claims it isn't worried and prefers to concentrate on home grown products. Hence Silicon Dreams.

In a way it's good news for Amiga players. LucasArts provided US Gold with some of its most prestigious hits including *Rebel Assault*, *X Wing* and *Day Of The Tentacle*, but none of them were converted for Amiga (despite rumours to the contrary. Which we started.).

However, it looks as if Oxford-based Silicon Dreams has the Amiga in its plans. The 20 strong development team is working on four titles at the moment which are scheduled for release in 1995.

They'll be published across 20 formats and the various Amigas should be among them. US Gold believes it makes sense to concentrate on in-house games rather than importing them. A spokesperson said: "LucasArts was very prestigious but it actually only accounted for three percent of our total sales. Having our own development team gives us much more control."

• *World Cup Golf* will become the first US Gold title to be published for CD32. This brand new golf-sim, based on the, er, *Golf World Cup*, is no floppy port. It has been developed for CD formats only and will land on shop fairways in November.

Until now US Gold has shown little interest in Commodore's console machine. But steady sales and the withdrawal of some of the US companies from the Amiga market has led it to believe that there is money to be made from the format.